



NO HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS
 Tam pledged that the government will not build high-rise buildings in the Lai Chi Vun shipyards area
 P2 POLICY ADDRESS

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WORLD BRIEFS



NORTH KOREAN leader Kim Jong Un thanked workers during a visit to a factory that built the tires for a huge vehicle used to transport a new intercontinental ballistic missile that was test-launched this week.

HONG KONG The food safety authority said on Friday it has ceased the hold-and-test arrangements at import level for eggs from European Union member states. The Center for Food Safety started holding eggs from EU countries for testing at import level in August, when eggs from EU countries were detected with excessive fipronil, a pesticide.



US Donald Trump launched a fresh attack yesterday on the credibility of his own FBI, responding to revelations that an FBI agent was removed from special counsel Robert Mueller's team investigating Russian election meddling because of anti-Trump text messages. **More on p14**

SOUTH KOREA At least 13 people were dead and two missing yesterday after a South Korean fishing boat collided with a refueling vessel and capsized, the coast guard said. **More on p12**

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LAWMAKER AWAITS SUSPENSION VERDICT
The last stand of Sulu Sou
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Siblings win Macau Marathon, break course records P8

Julie Zhu

POLICY ADDRESS | SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE

No high-rise buildings in Lai Chi Vun area

ON the second day of the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture Policy Address presentation at the Legislative Assembly (AL), Alexis Tam pledged that the government will not build high-rise buildings in the Lai Chi Vun shipyards area, located in Coloane.

Tam attended the AL meeting on Friday to answer the questions of lawmakers regarding the policy address in the field of Tam's secretariat.

Sulu Sou pointed out that the government has already spent about half a year in order to carry out the cultural relic evaluation of Lai Chi Vun old shipyards, and that the evaluation has not been completed yet.

What is left of the shipyards in Lai Chi Vun reminds of the time when the coastal villages were thriving in Macau. Historical accounts indicate that in the 1950s, there were around 10,000 fishermen and over 30 shipyards in Macau, many of them in Lai Chi Vun. Suffering from regional competition and the surge of the gaming industry in Macau, the industry collapsed in the 1990s.

"How long are we planning to put off the cultural relic evaluation? [...] Two of the shipyards have been demolished because of the incomplete cultural relic evaluation by the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau," said Sou, adding "after several seasons, you will not need to do it [evaluation] anymore, [the shipyards] will disappear."

"Is [the Lai Chi Vun dshipyards land plot] going to be used for building high-rise



residences with a view to the sea?" Sou asked.

"Our SAR, our city, our Chief Executive, and our cultural department pay strong importance to the protection of

cultural heritage," declared Tam. "I surely disagree with the idea that demolishing Lai Chi Vun shipyards will pave the way for high-rise buildings, [...] there is no such thing

going on, don't listen to the rumors," he appealed.

"Lawmaker Sou, you have a different opinion, I respect you. But which places have spent tens of millions to repair cultural relics? None, only Macau has," said Tam.

Tam was then questioned by lawmaker Lei Cheng I, who asked when the government would relaunch the public consultation on Macau's his-

torical urban zone protection plan, (the first public consultation was held in 2014). Tam expects another consultation will take place in the beginning of next year.

Several lawmakers, including Chui Sai Cheong, Wu Chou Kit and Mak Soi Kun, posed questions on cultural heritage and cultural relics.

Tam said that "Macau is like a theme museum, [...] the government, this year, has listed nine properties into the cultural relics protection list, and, next year, it will initiate a cultural relics evaluation of 13 properties."

Tam believes that these evaluations will help push Macau into building itself as a destination known for internationally recognized cultural heritage.

Regarding the cultural industry, Tam noted that, in 2016, Macau had more than 1,900 cultural organizations comprising more than 11,000 employees.

The cultural industry's revenues increased more than 10 percent to MOP6.86 billion, which makes this industry one of the engines of Macau's economic diversification.

Chui Sai Cheong suggested that the government should use public money to buy heritage architecture properties and then rent them to locals who will enliven the properties and use them for cultural and commercial businesses. The suggestion was endorsed by Tam.

"In the future, if there are antiques or architecture with cultural relic value, we can buy them [...] and let them become the property of the government. Then [we can] modify entire areas. I support this suggestion," said Tam.

When replying to Angela Leong, Tam said that Macau's acting and music school will be moved to Hotel Estoril e Piscina Municipal.

Integrated education regime to be delivered in Q1

SEVERAL lawmakers, including Angela Leong and Agnes Lam, paid attention to the legislation process for integrated education, having urged the government to expedite the establishment of related laws.

Sulu Sou pointed out that teachers working in this field have registered an unbalanced ratio between their salaries and their workload. He suggested the government consider establishing a bachelor degree in special education.

Alexis Tam said that he has not yet received any amendment draft regarding special education. However, he noted that the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau can deliver the draft to his

office in the first quarter of 2018. Tam expressed his confidence in the potential improvements to integrated education in Macau.

The secretary also disclosed that the local government will launch more courses and invest more resources into the training of local therapists. Tam also noted that the government will try to attract more Macau therapists to return to the city. He reiterated that he hopes the society can understand that the government will need to recruit non-local professionals in the short-term since the city cannot provide the number of talented human resources that are needed currently.

GOV'T TO SUBSIDIZE MORE ASSOCIATIONS

THE GOVERNMENT will subsidize more associations and social service organizations next year, according to Alexis Tam. In 2018, the number of funded associations and social services organizations will increase to 253, and the number of people subsidized will grow to 3,807. The total number of funds will also

grow, by up to MOP1.54 billion. In 2017, 246 organizations were subsidized, with 3,581 people collecting benefits, while the subsidies increased by a total of 79 percent overall. Tam said that the government has also established an alignment with more than 40 associations to help people with Alzheimer's disease.

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Casinos extend winning streak, revenue grows 23pct

MACAU'S casino revenue in November grew at the fastest pace in four months as junket operators attracted high-stakes players to the world's largest gambling hub.

Gross gaming receipts rose 23 percent to MOP23 billion (USD2.9 billion) last month, according to data released by Macau's Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau on Friday. That exceeds the median estimate for a 19 percent increase in a Bloomberg survey of seven analysts.

The casino industry in the former Portuguese colony is being spurred by wealthy Chinese returning to the gaming center after China's anti-corruption drive triggered a slowdown. Revenue from high-stakes gamblers has grown more than 28 per-



cent in the first nine months of this year, outpacing the mass-market segment of casual gamblers. Macau's biggest junket operator, Suncity Group, reported it's seeing a surge in VIP business, aided by a luxury rewards program.

Revenue climbed 20 percent in the 11 months through November. The

recovery in Macau will be supported through 2018 by the resurgence of both high rollers and the slightly lower tier of big-spending casual gamblers from China, Bloomberg Intelligence analysts Margaret Huang and Carmen Lee wrote in a note this week. Casinos are opening new resorts or renovating properties to include hi-

gh-end amenities to woo high-spending gamblers directly or through junket operators, they said.

Las Vegas Sands Corp. is set to spend \$1.1 billion to renovate a Cotai resort into a London-themed attraction while MGM China's Cotai resort will begin VIP operations in the first half of next year and has secured five junket operators to bring high-stakes players.

Still, as the casino business is booming, Macau regulators are strengthening their oversight of the almost \$30 billion industry. The local government said it's currently reviewing its gaming laws to ensure casinos are following through on non-gaming commitments. Beginning in January, it also plans to tighten standards for licensing junket operators. **Bloomberg**

Legionella bacteria found at hotel's water system

Traces of legionella bacteria virus were found at The Parisian, for the second time, after samples were obtained from its water system. Forty samples obtained from water tanks, water pumping systems and swimming pools and fountains were legionella-negative. According to the Health Bureau, of the 21 other samples taken from some hotel room's water outlets, one sample tested positive for legionella with a concentration of 200 CFU per SWAB, higher than the normal rate, which stands at 10 to 20. Four other samples from some toilets at the shopping centers, restaurants and changing rooms were also positive.

'Certified Shops' awarded to 1,000 stores

About 1,000 shops passed this year's assessment made by the Consumer Council (CC) and were awarded the 2018 "Certified Shop" emblem. The CC announced that 750 shops were graded B or above, and 11 of them were graded "Class A Certified Shops." Over 1,400 "Adherents" were assessed and evaluated in 2017. Some 1,000 shops passed the annual assessment, including on-site evaluation, satisfactory complaint records, mystery shoppers, and are awarded the "Certified Shop" emblem for the next year. Representatives of consumer organizations from mainland China were invited to participate in the annual assessment.

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

editorial

Paulo Coutinho



DO THE RIGHT THING

SECRETARY Wong Sio Chak said recently that the prosecution against lawmaker Sulu Sou has no political motivations and that the case runs its due course in the courts.

Proclaiming that “no one is above the law” regarding Sou’s prosecution is exactly the same as saying “no restrictions” should be “endured” by citizen Chui Sai Cheong to be the vice president of the legislative branch just because he happens to be the Chief Executive’s brother.

The matters are of a different nature, but both arguments serve one purpose and one purpose only: to deceive the people.

Indeed, focusing on the most imminent case, Sou is to a certain extent “above the law”: In our system, the lawmaker has parliamentary immunity from criminal prosecution while he sits at the Legislative Assembly.

The most benevolent reason for the legal status of immunity for members of a parliament is to allow them to argue freely without fear of being prosecuted for slander or libel.

This is not the case of Sou since the court request to the assembly has to do with an alleged act of civil disobedience during a protest prior to his election. However, by Macau law even in this case he is entitled to the immunity unless the majority of the house decides otherwise.

Everybody understands this is a “petty” offense that should not warrant the suspension of the immunity because the “political mandate is of higher importance when compared to the degree of graveness of the prosecution,” as former veteran lawmaker and member of the Executive Council, Leonel Alves, said over the weekend.

In an interview with Radio Macau, Alves added that “the parliamentary immunity should only be lifted in extreme offenses,” implicitly saying that this is not such a case.

The crime Sou is accused of warrants a maximum two-year prison sentence in our penal code, so clearly it doesn’t fall under the category of an “extreme” offense.

Today the plenary will vote, in a secret ballot, the destiny of young lawmaker Sulu Sou.

His fellow lawmakers must understand that it is not “only” the political future of Sou that it is at stake; it is also the dignity of the legislative branch of the government.

The Legislative Assembly will lose its last drop of credibility if it decides for the suspension. By doing so – and its record of rubber-stamp legislature is a bad augur – the AL will prove Secretary Wong’s wrong. It will prove that this is, indeed, a case of political prosecution to silence a promising pro-democratic voice.

We hope we are wrong and that Sou’s fellow lawmakers do the right thing.

Sulu Sou holds rally as he awaits suspension verdict

Daniel Beittler

MACAU’S youngest ever lawmaker might today become its shortest-lived.

Democrat Sulu Sou will find out this afternoon if he is to be suspended from his post in order to undergo an investigation and even possible prosecution.

Although he will not be formally removed from his post, Sou’s suspension will waive his prosecutorial immunity to allow for the investigation. It is widely expected – even by the lawmaker himself – that today’s vote will go against him.

But at a demonstration held last night at the Rotunda de Carlos da Maia (also known as “Three Lamps”), Sou defied the emotionally-charged atmosphere and showed he had not yet been defeated.

Preceded by half a dozen other speakers, including former New Macau Association presidents Scott Chiang and Jason Chao, veteran lawmaker Paul Chan and other political activists in the city, Sou’s rallying calls could be heard from the high street, Avenida Horta e Costa.

Around 300 people filed into the small public area at Three Lamps, encircled by the occasional police vehicle patrolling the roundabout.

Organizer New Macau was clear that the demonstration was not intended to impede or delay the judicial process against Sou. That’s because the recommendation by the relevant body has already been settled and will tomorrow be forwarded to the Legislative Assembly, Macau’s rubber-stamp parliament, for approval.

Accordingly, there was an air of trepidation at last night’s demonstration.

Sou’s optimism could not offset a general feeling that his very short-lived career was drawing to an untimely close, with some of the event speakers seemingly already

REINATO MARQUES



resigned to the verdict.

The current New Macau president, Kam Sut Leng, recalled to the Times how in just a few years Sou has inspired young people to develop an interest in law and governance, and to take to the streets in defense of their rights.

But she added that the message the government is sending is that “when a young parliament member takes the [initiative] to hold the government responsible, he will face a lawsuit.”

Jason Chao, one of the city’s most prominent political activists, made a video link appearance at yesterday’s rally, where he called on residents to continue to support people like Sou.

“I hope this episode will serve as a reminder for the citizens of Macau that one’s civic responsibility is not confined to casting a ballot,” he said. “What a mere group of enthusiasts in democracy and social justice can achieve is very limited, without the involvement of a wider public.”

Sou, who has been a lawmaker in the Legislative Assembly for just seven weeks, has been the source of a number of controver-

sies, causing considerable embarrassment to the government and to his fellow legislators.

“We didn’t bribe anyone; we didn’t get support from the big associations or companies, but we still won!”

SULU SOU

Within his first 50 days, the young democrat was photographed probing the chief executive on whether Macau’s top official ought to assume more responsibility over the handling of Typhoon Hato and also alarmed his colleagues when he broadcasted their closed-door comments on social media.

Other democrat lawmakers – namely Pereira Coutinho, Au Kam San and Ng Kuok Cheong – were ostensibly

absent from the demonstration. Asked about their lack of attendance, the New Macau president said only, “We hope that they will come [tonight].”

The demonstrators that did come stood patiently for nearly two hours before Sou finally took to the stage, first recalling his short-lived time as a lawmaker and the four years of involvement at New Macau that led him to the election victory in September.

“We didn’t give out any free breakfasts; we didn’t bribe anyone; we didn’t get support from the big associations or companies... but we still won!”

Nine thousand people voted for Sou in the 2017 Legislative Assembly election. While last night’s turnout represented a only a sliver of this population, the attendees could not be cleanly categorized into any one demographic. They ranged in age from seniors to children and included both Chinese and Portuguese residents from different socio-economic backgrounds.

As lawmaker Chan Wa Keong aptly said last week: these are “Sulu Sou’s people”.





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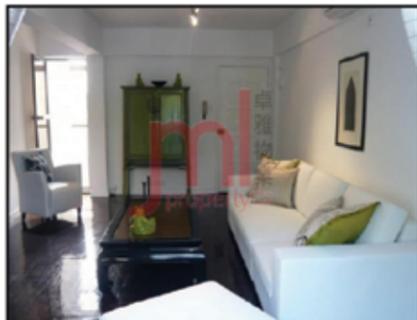
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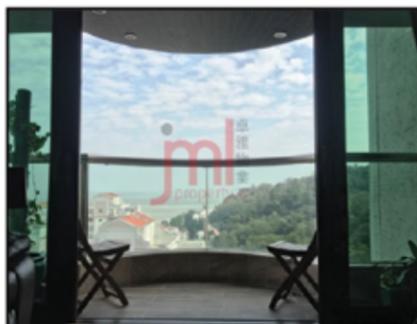
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Siblings win Macau Marathon, break course records

FELIX and Eunice Kirwa were the great winners for the 2017 edition of the Macau International Marathon.

The brother and sister won in both male and female categories respectively, running the 42.195km in 2:10:01 and 2:29:12, with both siblings also achieving record breaking the records for each category.

Felix Kiptoo Kirwa, in this way, won not only the title and the prize money for the winner but also the bonus (for record breaker), scoring a record-high prize of USD62,000. Joseph Kyengo Munywoki and Henry Sang, both from Kenya, ran the distance in 2:13:18 and 2:13:48, attaining the second and third positions respectively.

In the women's category, Bahrain athlete Eunice Jepkirui Kirwa also repeated the achievement of her brother Felix and took both the win and the record-breaking bonus; a prize-money total of USD62,000.



Felix Kiptoo Kirwa pictured during the race



Eunice Kirwa crosses the line

In second place of the women's category was Ukraine's Shafar Oleksandra, followed by Rodah Jepkorir Ranui of Kenya with the times of 2:33:06 and 2:33:41 respectively.

The 36th edition of the international event gathered about 12,000 participants

from over 50 countries and regions in different categories.

Besides the major titles attributed to the Kenyan Felix Kirwa and his sister Eunice, who was representing Bahrain, the event also attributes special awards for the

best local runners, which was awarded to Chan Chong Ip and Hoi Long, in the male and female category respectively.

This sporting event has been held annually at the end of the year and continues to gather a lot of interest, resulting in the organizers to cons-

tantly extend the number of entry-slots available for the running route. The route now passes through the A-Ma Temple, Nobre de Carvalho and Sai Van Bridge with a track through the Taipa, Cotai and Macau peninsula areas, totaling the official distance of 42.195 km.

Together with the event there are also two other races, the Half Marathon distance and a Mini Marathon.

For the Half Marathon distance, the overall winner in the male category was another Kenyan, Josphat Menjo and in the female group, the winner was Portugal's Doroteia Alves Peixoto, who repeated her 2016 victory. The best among the local athletes for the half-distance event was Iao Kuan Un and Wu Yangyang, respectively in the male and female groups.

As for the special prize for the oldest athlete of the year, it was awarded to Kwan Kam Tong of Hong Kong; the 80 year-old was the oldest athlete running the Marathon distance finishing within the settled maximum time.

As in previous editions, marathon legend and Olympic champion Rosa Mota participated in the event. **RM**

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CRIME

Chain optical shops found selling counterfeit glasses

THE Macau Customs Service has detected a total of seven shops belonging to a chain store selling counterfeit glasses, according to a statement released by the Customs department.

Customs officers were divided into squads in order to carry out an inspection of the seven shops, which had been reported to Customs for selling counterfeit products.

The Customs' officers raided the shops and were accompanied by customers who were cheated by the counterfeit products, to help point out the counterfeit goods.

The officers seized counterfeit glasses copying several brand-name trademarks, including a total of 1,507

pairs of sunglasses and optical glasses. With respect to the genuine goods, the total value of the products was estimated at around MOP1.5 million.

Two people were arrested, a 44-year-old local resident and a 35-year-old non-local worker.

The counterfeit products were purchased from Hong Kong and mainland China. Each pair of spectacles was purchased for MOP400 to MOP700 and were being sold approximately between MOP600 and MOP1,000 each.

The Customs Service will prosecute the duo based on the city's industrial property laws and cargo fraud regulations. Customs will then forward these people to judicial authorities.

Package tour visitors increase in October

THE National Day and Mid-Autumn Festival holidays contributed to the increase in visitors travelling on package tours, which rose 16.3 percent year-on-year to 799,000 in October 2017, with a month-to-month increase of 6 percent. Package tour visitors from mainland China (647,000), the Republic of Korea (40,000) and Taiwan (43,000) went up by 17.0 percent, 29.2 percent and 11.8 percent respectively year-on-year.

In the first 10 months of 2017, visitors travelling via package tours totaled 6.8 million, up by 11.5 percent year-on-year, according to data provided by the Statistics and Census Service.

Outbound residents using the services of travel agencies increased by 18.7 percent year-on-year to 123,000.

Residents travelling on package tours grew by 23.2 percent to 48,000, with those going to mainland China (30,000) rising by 11.5 percent.

In the first 10 months of 2017, outbound residents using the ser-



vices of travel agencies totaled 1.14 million, up by 11.7 percent year-on-year.

Tourists coming in from mainland China (738,000) rose by 5.5 percent year-on-year, and those from Korea (47,000) surged by 86.5 percent.

Meanwhile, visitors from Hong Kong (110,000) and Taiwan (39,000) dropped by 29.4 percent and 1.3 percent respectively.

The average length of stay of guests went up by 0.1 nights year-on-year to 1.5 nights.

The average occupancy rate of ho-

tels and guesthouses stood at 88.2 percent, up by 4.1 percentage points year-on-year, with 5-star hotels (89.8 percent) and 4-star hotels (89.1 percent) recording relatively high rates for October, up by 4.9 percentage points and 1.2 percentage points respectively year-on-year.

In the first 10 months of 2017, the total number of guests at hotels and guesthouses exceeded 10.8 million, up by 11.3 percent year-on-year. The average occupancy rate of hotels and guesthouses rose by 3.8 percentage points to 86.0 percent.

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- Main theme on "Shaping of Eco-Cities for Inclusive Green Economy" to discuss global environmental hot topics and relevant solutions
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- Green Showcase : Cover the solutions and cases related to the shaping of Eco-Cities, fostering exchange and development of Green Economy
- Regional focus : Participation from Belt and Road Region, Pan-Pearl River Delta Region, Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, Portuguese-speaking Countries and European Countries to expand eco-opportunities

Fiat Chrysler in talks with Korea's Hyundai over partnership

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles revealed that it's in talks with South Korea's Hyundai Motor Co. about a technical partnership.

The alliance might become "a strong one," though there is no likelihood of a merger between the companies, Fiat Chrysler Chief Executive Officer Sergio Marchionne said Saturday at the Alfa Romeo Museum in Arese, near Milan.

"There is the potential of a technical partnership with Hyundai, which already supplies some components and transmissions for the U.S.," Marchionne told reporters after a presentation on Alfa's planned Formula One return. "Let's see if we find a deal to develop transmission and hydrogen."

Marchionne, 65, a vocal proponent of automaker consolidation, is preparing a five-year business plan before he retires as CEO in 2019. Cooperation on hydrogen propulsion would come as rival plug-in electric vehicles emerge as the dominant technology in the emerging post-fossil fuel era.

The CEO confirmed plans to spin off Fiat Chrysler's Magneti Marelli and Comau component businesses into separate companies by the start of 2019. The mechanism hasn't been decided, but could include selling a stake to raise cash.



A spinoff of the Alfa Romeo and Maserati brands is too remote to be discussed at the moment, Marchionne said, while highlighting the importance of motor racing in Alfa's development. A return to F1 could help polish the marque's image as it seeks to rebuild an upscale reputation.

Marchionne has invested billions of dollars to develop new vehicles after the Alfa line-up shrank and sales collapsed in the last decade. F1's global appeal will bring wider exposure after previous attempts to expand beyond Europe were delayed.

The CEO confirmed Fiat Chrysler's financial targets for 2018, including an increase in operating profit to about 9 billion euros (USD10.7 billion) and the elimination of debt, and said he anticipates "managab-

le costs" from a diesel investigation that Fiat is facing in the U.S.

The issue "will cost us something, but we have reduced the risk expectations," Marchionne said, adding that a separate French probe is groundless.

Marchionne, who met with U.S. Vice President Mike Pence and other officials at the White House this week to discuss NAFTA concerns, said he doesn't see Donald Trump's administration leaving the North America Free Trade Agreement.

"They want to find a solution that somehow re-establishes the American interest being more important," he said. "They think they gave up too much at the table and they want some of it back. The question is how much and when." **Bloomberg**

Las Vegas shooting leads to 4.2 percent drop in visitors

TRIP cancellations and postponements in the wake of October's mass shooting prompted a 4.2 percent decline in visitors to Las Vegas for the month.

Some 3.6 million people visited the city in October, the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority said last week. Even a 36 percent surge in convention attendees, to 687,000 people, wasn't enough to overcome the fallout from the massacre. Gambling revenue on the Las Vegas Strip fell 6.1 percent to USD528.7 million, according to data released separately by the Nevada Gaming Control Board.

MGM Resorts International's Mandalay Bay resort killed 58 people and wounded hundreds more on the night of Oct. 1. Las Vegas hotels remained open for business, but casino operators stopped marketing for a week or more out of respect for those killed and injured.

MGM Chief Executive Officer James Murren said on a Nov. 8 conference call that cancellations subsided by mid-October, with the exception of Mandalay Bay, where the company took longer to resume marketing. "We've seen bookings improve, our business improve, here in November," he said. **Bloomberg**

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Suu Kyi meets Xi Jinping as Rohingya censure grows

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

MYANMAR'S civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, facing growing international criticism over her country's persecution of Rohingya Muslims, said Friday her government has made progress in creating a peaceful society but acknowledged that "much still remains to be done."

In remarks on a visit to Beijing, Suu Kyi did not directly address the crisis that has seen more than 620,000 Rohingya flee the country over the last few months in what the U.N. and the U.S. say is a campaign of ethnic cleansing by Myanmar.

Suu Kyi, who spent 15 years under house arrest during the nation's military rule, has come under widespread criticism for not speaking out against the violence. But she was warmly welcomed in China, Myanmar's friendly nor-

thern neighbor, including when she met with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday.

Suu Kyi spoke at a gathering of political parties hosted by China's ruling Communist Party and said her National League for Democracy-led government "has made progress in its endeavors to create a peaceful, stable and harmonious society."

"But much still remains to be done," she added. China has avoided criticizing the crisis and state media did not say whether the issue was discussed during her meeting with Xi. The two leaders hailed the potential for future cooperation through a "China-Myanmar economic corridor," state broadcaster CCTV reported.

Suu Kyi's visit comes just a week after Min Aung Hlaing, the commander of Myanmar's military, held his own talks with Xi in Beijing. Myanmar's army

remains politically powerful and the civilian government has no control over certain areas such as defense and national security.

Chinese projects have been blamed for uprooting villagers and harming the environment

Analysts said Beijing has likely won greater leverage over Myanmar by helping shield it from criticism over the Rohingya crisis.

"Myanmar has leaned toward China because of international

criticism and condemnation on Myanmar over the crisis," said prominent Myanmar political analyst Yan Myo Thein.

Beijing immediately saw that the crisis provided an opportunity for China to restructure a relationship that stalled after Myanmar began opening to the West earlier this decade, said David Mathieson, a former human rights researcher who is now an independent analyst based in Myanmar.

The international outrage and a U.N. human rights investigation into Myanmar's armed conflicts has "given Beijing the opportunity to redefine and rejuvenate its support for the Myanmar state — but at a hefty price," Mathieson said.

China was a longstanding friend of Myanmar during the Southeast Asian country's isolation from the West, and its present interests in the country include

security along China's southern border, access to Myanmar's natural resources and the construction of dams, pipelines and other projects.

Among the biggest, a recently opened pipeline running through Myanmar carries oil from the Middle East and the Caucasus to China's landlocked Yunnan province, allowing it to bypass the Malacca Strait. The pipeline starts at the Bay of Bengal in Rakhine state in western Myanmar, the epicenter of the anti-Rohingya violence.

Chinese projects have been blamed for uprooting villagers and harming the environment, factors that led Myanmar in 2011 to suspend the USD3.6 billion Myitsone dam primarily funded by Chinese energy interests. The suspension remains a sore point and China is eager to see resumption of work on the project, which had hardly broken ground when it was stopped.

Although Suu Kyi's delegation includes the country's minister of electricity and energy, real progress on the dam issue is unlikely, said Yan Myo Thein, the analyst.

"There is only a small possibility that this particular dam project will be implemented under a Suu Kyi-led government because it's a controversial national project," he said.

Instead, the two sides may discuss alternative projects such as a road serving the Kuming-Mandalay-Yangon-Kyaukphyu economic platform, he said.

Xi and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen were also among those who addressed the gathering at the Great Hall of the People, the hulking seat of China's legislature in the heart of Beijing. Other participants included U.S. Republican National Committee Treasurer Tony Parker.

The gathering of delegates representing more than 200 political parties from around the world was hosted by China's ruling Communist Party, which last month reappointed Xi to a second five-year term as its leader. **AP**

CHINESE authorities banned unlicensed lending and capped borrowing costs in its latest efforts to crack down on the country's online micro-lenders as financial regulators zero in on risk in the soaring market for consumer credit.

The total interest rates plus fees charged on borrowing can't exceed the ceiling imposed by the Supreme People's Court, and lenders are barred from giving loans to those without income, China Business News reported, citing an official notice. Regulators will also stop approving new micro-lenders, and non-

Unlicensed micro-loans banned, borrowing costs capped to limit risks

compliant creditors that have already been approved will be subject to a review.

At a Dec. 1 briefing in Beijing, the CBRC indicated it would carry out a concentrated operation to clean up the micro-lending industry, which offers almost immediate unsecured loans over the internet, often at high interest rates. The commission said it wanted to make sure interest ra-

tes and costs imposed on borrowers didn't exceed permitted limits.

The latest step would escalate earlier moves to crack down on the sector and its estimated USD152 billion of loans. News that China has halted further approvals for online micro-lenders has already pummeled the New York shares of firms like Qudian Inc. and PPD AI Group Inc.

Under the new rules,

micro lenders cannot seek reimbursement through violence, intimidation or insult, and they must protect the security of customer information, according to the notice published by CBN. Lenders must also stop extending online micro-loans when proceeds are not earmarked for a specific purpose, and financial institutions cannot provide funding to these lenders for their loans.

Punishment for violators include requesting rectification, business suspension or license revocation.

PPDAI, which started trading in November, dropped 2.5 percent as of 9:50 a.m., extending loss since its IPO to 31 percent. Qudian reversed an earlier loss to gain 5 percent after announcing a plan to increase its share repurchase program to up to \$300 million.

Putting a shorter rein on China's micro-lending sector is in step with the government's broader campaign to curb excessive leverage and maintain financial stability. That drive will focus on four areas: shadow banking, asset management, financial holding companies and Internet finance, China's central bank Governor Zhou Xiaochuan said in a speech in October in Washington D.C.

Last month, Zhou pointed to a buildup of risks that are "hidden, complex, sudden, contagious and hazardous" after total borrowing in China ballooned. **Bloomberg**



Wang Qishan, one of Xi's main allies

Top graft-buster may become vice president

CHINA'S outgoing anti-corruption graft chief is expected to be named vice president next year, the South China Morning Post reported, giving him a perch to continue influencing policy.

The move would allow Wang Qishan, 69, to formally serve as President Xi Jinping's emissary despite retiring from the Communist Party's top political body in October, the Hong Kong-based newspaper said Friday, citing several people it didn't identify. The one-time state-run bank executive has continued to attend meetings of the supreme leadership body, the Politburo Standing Committee, the paper said.

The party's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, which Wang has led since 2012, didn't answer a call to its Beijing headquarters after normal business hours Friday.

While China's vice presidency has at times been occupied by presiden-

ts-in-waiting and is legally second-in-line to the top job, the post is largely ceremonial. The current vice president, Li Yuanchao, 67, is expected to step down next year after losing his seat on the broader Politburo during the October reshuffle.

Xi elevated no obvious successors during the recent party congress, which also saw Wang retire from the all-powerful Standing Committee in line with past retirement conventions. Appointing Wang to the vice presidency would let Xi retain a key ally with legal authority to act in his stead.

Wang, who has known Xi since their days toiling in the countryside during Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution, has overseen the president's signature campaign against corruption for the past five years. The unprecedented crackdown has swept up more than 1.5 million officials, including the country's former security chief and retired top general. **Bloomberg**

Hong Kong businessman denied bail in bribery case

A former Hong Kong government official was denied bail on Friday in a U.S. case accusing of him using bribes to secure business deals.

Dr. Chi Ping Patrick Ho was jailed last week after being charged with paying bribes on behalf of a Chinese energy conglomerate to the president of Chad and the Ugandan foreign minister.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Debra Freeman rejected a bid by lawyers for the 68-year-old Ho to have him released on USD1 million bond and put under home detention with electronic monitoring at a rented Manhattan apartment, saying she agreed with prosecutors' argument that he was a flight risk.

Ho's attorney said he would appeal the bail decision.

Ho, 68, of Hong Kong, and Cheikh Gadio, 61, of Senegal, were charged in Manhattan federal court with violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, international money laundering and conspiracy.

Prosecutors allege that Ho hatched the scheme at the United Nations when the Ugandan foreign minister was president of the U.N. General Assembly. Beginning in October 2014, the pair arranged bribes to secure business advanta-

ges for a Shanghai-headquartered multibillion-dollar conglomerate that operates internationally in the energy and financial sectors, court papers say.

Arguing against bail on Friday, Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Richenthal told the judge that Ho is worth up to \$8 million, has no ties to the United States and is facing more than 10 years in prison if convicted.

"His incentive to flee is massive," Richenthal said. "His ability to flee is massive."

He also argued that the officials Ho allegedly bribed would have incentive to help him get out of the United States and into countries without extradition treaties, he said.

"There are a lot of people who would rather not see what the defendant did aired in open court," he said.

Defense attorney Edward Kim described his client as a respected U.S.-trained eye doctor and former cabinet-level official in Hong Kong, where he served as home affairs secretary. "To flee would be a disgrace," Kim said. "It would destroy everything he worked for. It would destroy his reputation." **AP**

ADVERTORIAL



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Green office program



The Green Office Program was launched in June of this year as a way to guide our offices towards environmentally sustainable behaviors and recognize great efforts in doing so. Our company Green Team includes at least one representative from all departments to act as our internal sustainability champions. A guideline including the top ten sustainable office behaviors for energy, water and waste reduction was given to each team member, as well as a set of fun stickers to act as visible daily reminders. Each Green Team member then took

responsibility for making sure his/her own department met the Green Office Guideline in time for the Green Office Audit which was carried out for all offices by the Sustainability team, and which culminated in Green Office Recognition.



Chef challenge

To support low carbon living and raise awareness that our day-to-day actions have an impact on the environment and contribute to climate change, MGM MACAU officially launched Green Monday in the employee dining room in March. A special Green Monday menu has been created by the chefs of MGM that is both low carbon and good for our health and now being served every Monday.



To support low carbon living and raise awareness that our day-to-day actions have an impact on the environment and contribute to climate change, MGM MACAU officially launched Green Monday in the employee dining room in March. A special Green Monday menu has been created by the chefs of MGM that is both low carbon and good for our health and now being served every Monday.



On September 25, MGM also held the Green Monday Chef Challenge - an event that put our chefs head-to-head to create a dish using "meat from plants", also termed plant-based proteins. Chefs from all of our MGM MACAU and MGM COTAI restaurants each came up with a dish to wow the judging panel's taste buds, using a range of products that are designed to look and taste like meat, but that are actually made from plant proteins; products such as "meatless meat balls", "fishless filets" and "beefless strips". The winning dishes and teams of chefs were recognized at MGM's employee recognition program, the Golden Lion Award ceremony.

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INDONESIA

Remembering 1963 eruption, Bali's elderly wary of another

BALI'S glowering Mount Agung has seemingly quieted since hurling huge columns of ash from its crater a week ago, but some villagers on the Indonesian island who survived the catastrophic 1963 explosions believe a bigger eruption is coming.

Ash plumes have dissipated in the past few days though an online seismogram from the mountain's monitoring post resembles a crazed abstract painting, indicating the tremendous forces churning within.

Explosions from the smoking crater and tremors still rattle the surrounding region and authorities have maintained Agung's alert at the highest level. Its 1963 eruptions killed about 1,100 people.

"The situation now is almost the same," said Nengah Tresni, who was 12 when Agung erupted in 1963. She recalls being at one of the Hindu temples that dot the volcano's slopes and the sky suddenly turning dark as she left with her family.

"I'm sure there will be a big eruption. It is just a matter of time," said Tresni, who came with family members on Tuesday to an ageing sports center that's serving as an evacuation camp



A woman carries a bucket of water in a temporary shelter following the eruption of Mount Agung in Karangasem

after officials told them to leave their village.

"In the old eruption many people did not expect it to be big because there were small eruptions for a long time and villagers just went to the temple to pray," she said.

It's the second time Tresni has fled to the camp since September, when the 3,140-meter (10,300-foot) volcano burst into life after more than half a century of inactivity. Officials lowered the volcano's alert level at the end of

October and most of the 140,000 people who had evacuated returned home. It proved to be a brief respite.

"I actually didn't want to go back because I thought there would be big eruptions, but my family wanted to go home," she said. "And now we're refugees here again."

Nyoman Siki from a village high on the volcano's slopes was 6 or 7 years old in 1963 and remembers it being said that 200 people from his area were killed. But he

was philosophical about the situation. When people returned a year after the eruption, he said they were happy because it had renewed the fertility of the land.

"After years of cultivation, the volcano is just about to erupt again," he said.

More than 55,000 people are living in shelters such as sports halls, temples and tent camps since officials expanded the no-go area around the volcano on Monday. Many centers appear well organized, but one visited by Associated Press reporters in Rendang district on Saturday was tightly packed and muddy from the frequent rains. Tourists who were stranded when the idyllic island's airport closed for nearly three days have rushed to leave.

Nyoman Merta said that after the 1963 eruption, he and his family walked for three days from their village before authorities picked them up and took them to an evacuation camp.

"I was 9 years old but I can remember many people still stayed. There were no warnings like now and maybe that was why many people were killed then," he said.

The family stayed in Denpasar in the south of Bali for a year.

When they returned home, he said, their house was uninhabitable because of damage caused by the eruptions.

He compared the recent months of escalating danger signs from Agung with 1963.

Scientists agree the danger remains though making an exact prediction is difficult if not impossible.

"At all volcanoes we can expect fluctuations in activity. This does not mean that the threat is over," said Heather Handley, a volcanologist at Sydney's Macquarie University. "It is clearly still in an active phase."

In the 1963 eruption, there were small ash explosions in February followed by a lava flow and then a large explosive eruption on March 17, she said. A second major eruption occurred two months later "so activity can stop and start again," said Handley.

At the muddy Rendang camp, bare-chested 77-year-old Nyoman Arse remembered the 1963 disaster in great detail and was unperturbed by Agung's ash eruptions in the past week.

Recalling events when he was 24, Arse said the mountain sent out ash for a month and then exploded about the same time as Galungan, an important religious celebration in majority Hindu Bali that in 1963 fell in mid-March.

"I saw the rocks coming down the mountain with a very loud noise," he said, imitating crashing sounds. "The rocks were huge," he said. "What's happening now is still nothing." AP

SOUTH KOREA

13 dead, 2 missing after boat capsizes

AT least 13 people were dead and two missing yesterday after a South Korean fishing boat collided with a refueling vessel and capsized, the coast guard said.

An official from the Korea Coast Guard said seven people were rescued and the two missing included the boat's captain. He said 22 people were aboard the 9.8-ton fishing boat that capsized after colliding with the 336-ton refueling vessel in waters off the port city of Incheon.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity, citing office rules. The refueling vessel did not suffer damage.

President Moon Jae-in ordered authorities to deploy as many helicopters and other



aircraft as possible to search for the missing, according to his office.

The coast guard official said 19 coast guard and naval vessels and five aircraft including helicopters were dispatched to the site. Authorities were questioning the crew of the refueling vessel to determine the cause of the colli-

sion.

South Korea has seen its share of significant maritime accidents in recent years, including the 2014 sinking of a ferry that killed more than 300 people, mostly schoolchildren. More than 50 fishermen died or went missing months later after their vessel sank in the Bering Sea. AP

INDIA

Strong cyclone kills at least 12

A strong cyclone over the southeast Arabian Sea triggered heavy rains and strong winds in southern India, damaging hundreds of huts, power lines and trees and killing at least 12 people, officials said Saturday.

More than 2,000 people have taken shelter in relief centers in Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli districts in Tamil Nadu state and in Lakshadweep, a group of 36 islands, officials said.

The India Meteorological Department said heavy rains and strong winds lashed Lakshadweep on Saturday.

At least 12 people have been killed in Tamil Nadu and Kerala states since Friday, state-run All India Radio reported. Krishan Kumar, a relief agency spokesman, said the casualties were mainly caused by falling trees and power lines.

The cyclone, with gusts of up to 175 kilometers



An Indian fisherman who was rescued from the Arabian Sea is rushed to a hospital

(110 miles) per hour, is expected to weaken on Monday after recurving in the Arabian Sea, according to India's Meteorological Department.

Television images showed parts of Kanyakumari district flooded and without electricity, with severe damage to power lines. In Kanyakumari and Thoothukudi districts, strong winds uprooted more than 500 trees, snapped power lines and damaged settlements

close to the sea.

More than 530 fishermen stranded in choppy waters have been rescued off Kerala state and the Lakshadweep islands, said Pinyari Viayan, Kerala's top elected official.

Rescue operations were underway, with the Indian navy, air force and coast guard searching for dozens of fishermen unaccounted for in the Thiruvananthapuram-Kollam coastal area, said the New Delhi Television news channel. AP

Nicole Winfield, Dhaka

ANALYSIS

Face-to-face with Rohingya, pope ditches diplomacy

POPE Francis has gotten into trouble before for ditching diplomatic protocol and calling a spade a spade, most famously when he labeled the Ottoman-era slaughter of Armenians a “genocide” from the altar of St. Peter’s Basilica.

Francis took the hit — Turkey recalled its ambassador to the Vatican in protest — for the sake of standing up for an oppressed people who were nearly wiped off the map a century ago.

Given the opportunity to do the same in Myanmar, where the military has launched what the U.N. says is a campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya Muslim minority, Francis opted instead for diplomatic expediency. He not only avoided the contested term “Rohingya” in his public remarks, he ignored Asia’s worst refugee crisis in decades entirely and didn’t call out his hosts for launching it.

Human rights groups complained. Rohingya complained. Journalists and pundits asked if Francis’ legacy as a fearless crusader for the world’s most marginal — the poor, homeless, refugees and prisoners — wasn’t now in question.

By Friday, Francis’ heart won out.

In an emotional encounter with 16 Rohingya refugees, Francis said what he probably wanted to say from the start. His voice trembling after he greeted the men, women and children who had been forced to flee their homes in Myanmar for wretched camps in Bangladesh, Francis begged them for forgiveness for what they had



Pope Francis interacts with a Rohingya Muslim refugee at a meeting in Dhaka

endured and the “indifference of the world” to their plight.

“The presence of God today also is called ‘Rohingya,’” he told them.

And with that one word, Francis erased days of speculation that the tell-it-like-it-is, protocol-be-damned pope had sold out to the professional diplomats at the Vatican who were willing to deny a persecuted minority their very identity for the sake of global and local church politics.

Francis on Saturday explained his strategy: He said he would have never gotten his message across if he had launched into a public critique of the Rohingya

offensive while on Burmese soil, saying doing so would have “slammed the door in their face” to any real dialogue.

“It’s true I didn’t have the pleasure of slamming the door in their face publicly with a denunciation,” Francis told reporters en route home to Rome. “But I had the satisfaction of dialogue, and letting the other side dialogue, and in this way the message arrived.”

The Vatican had defended Francis’ initial silence as necessary for the sake of “building bridges” with Myanmar, which only established diplomatic relations with the Holy See in May.

“Vatican diplomacy is not infallible,” spokesman Greg Burke told reporters in Yangon. “You can criticize what’s said, what’s not said. But the pope is not going to lose moral authority on this question here.”

Burke added that the Catholic Church is a minority in Myanmar. The implication was clear: Catholics are already discriminated against in predominantly Buddhist Myanmar, and certainly didn’t need any blowback from the vast majority of Burmese who recoil at the term “Rohingya” because it implies an official recognition of them as an ethnic group. The local church had urged Francis to refrain from using the term, and Francis obliged.

A pope is first and foremost a shepherd to his flock.

The Vatican also wanted to back its local church in supporting Aung San Suu Kyi, who many Burmese see as their only hope for forging a more democratic, inclusive society where basic rights are guaranteed for all minorities — Christians included.

And so when he arrived in Yangon and joined Suu Kyi at an official welcome ceremony, Francis behaved like a true diplomat.

He called for all ethnic groups in Myanmar to have their basic

rights guaranteed — an important message to be sure but one that was clearly written by committee.

Francis upped the ante when he arrived in Bangladesh, where he acknowledged the “immense toll of human suffering” under way in the squalid, overcrowded refugee camps that are now home to more than 620,000 Rohingya who have poured across the border from Myanmar’s Rakhine state.

In his official arrival speech, Francis demanded the international community take “decisive measures” to not only help Bangladesh provide for the refugees, but to resolve the underlying political causes in Myanmar that set off the exodus.

But he didn’t say “Rohingya.” Until he met them.

And when he did, when he clasped their hands in his and listened to their tragedies, he not only acknowledged their identity, he assumed responsibility for all the suffering they had endured.

“In the name of all those who persecute you, who have persecuted you, and those who have hurt you, above all in the indifference of the world, I ask you for forgiveness,” he said. He repeated the word: “Forgiveness.”

Francis was back. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

Rush steps down from screen academy

Rod McGuirk

GEOFFREY Rush announced Saturday he’s stepping down as president of Australia’s screen industry academy, days after a theater company revealed it had received a complaint against the Oscar-winning actor of “inappropriate behavior.”

Rush has denied any inappropriate behavior at the Sydney Theatre Company. Media reports this week said the allegation dated from Rush’s starring role in the leading Australian theater’s staging of William Shakespeare’s “King Lear” two years ago.

Rush said he stepped down as president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts ahead of the academy’s annual televised awards in Sydney on Wednesday.

“Certain recent media reports have made untenable allegations concerning my



standing in the entertainment community. It is unreasonable that my professional colleagues should be somehow associated with such allegations,” Rush said in a statement to The Associated Press through his lawyer Nicholas Pullen.

“In the circumstances, I have decided to step aside in my ambassadorial role as president of AACTA effective immediately and until these issues have been resolved,” he said.

“This decision has not been made lightly. However, in the current climate of innuendo and unjustifiable reporting, I believe the de-

cision to make a clean break to clear the air is the best for all concerned,” he added.

AACTA said in a statement it accepted and respected Rush’s decision to voluntarily step aside.

“We have been deeply concerned about the situation and support a course of action that both respects Geoffrey’s rights to the presumption of innocence and due process, but also acknowledges good corporate governance in these circumstances,” said AACTA, adding it would not comment further.

The Sydney Theatre Company has not disclosed de-

tails of the allegation. It said the complainant requested that the allegation be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Rush notified or involved in any investigation.

Rush has performed at the

Sydney theater for 35 years. The 66-year-old Australian actor won the 1997 best actor Academy Award for “Shine” and has three other Oscar nominations. He is perhaps best known as Captain Barbossa in the “Pirates

of the Caribbean” films.

Australian media reports say the allegation dated from the theater’s production of “King Lear” from November 2015 to January 2016.

Sydney’s The Daily Telegraph cited two unnamed theater sources in reporting Friday that an actress had accused Rush of touching her inappropriately. **AP**

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Trump tweet raises questions about why he fired Flynn

Calvin Woodward, Ken Thomas

PRESIDENT Donald Trump changed his story Saturday on why he fired Michael Flynn as his national security adviser, now suggesting he knew at the time that Flynn had lied to the FBI as well as to Vice President Mike Pence about his contacts with Russians during the presidential transition.

That was a turnabout from his initial explanations that Flynn had to go because he hadn't been straight with Pence about those contacts. Lying to the FBI is a crime, and one that Flynn acknowledged Friday in pleading guilty and agreeing to cooperate with the special counsel's Russia investigation.

Trump's tweet: "I had to fire General Flynn because he lied to the Vice President and the FBI. He has pled guilty to those lies. It is a shame because his actions during the transition were lawful. There was nothing to hide!"

Amid questions raised by the tweet, Trump associates tried to put distance Saturday evening between the president himself and the tweet. One person familiar with the situation said the tweet was actually crafted by John Dowd, one of the president's personal attorneys. Dowd declined to comment when reached by The Associated Press on Saturday night.

In another email wrinkle in the investigation into Trump's ties



Michael Flynn

to Russia, The New York Times reported Saturday that emails among top Trump transition officials suggested that Flynn was in close contact with other senior members of the transition team before and after he spoke to Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak. A Dec. 29 email from K.T. McFarland, a transition adviser to Trump, suggested that Russian sanctions announced by the Obama administration had been aimed at discrediting Trump's victory.

She wrote the sanctions could also make it more difficult for Trump to ease tensions with Russia, "which has just thrown the U.S.A. election to him," she wrote in the emails obtained by the Times. A White House attorney told

the newspaper McFarland only meant that Democrats were portraying it that way.

It's unclear why Trump would cite lying to the FBI as a reason for firing Flynn. Doing so suggests the president knew at the time that Flynn had done something that is against the law, and therefore the investigation could not be as frivolous as he's been portraying.

It's also unclear how he would know that, if information about Russian contacts had not reached him, as he has been implying in his own defense.

Flynn left the White House in February, only acknowledging that he had given an incomplete account to Pence of his conversations with Kislyak. After Trump

forced Flynn out, he asked FBI Director James Comey to end the bureau's probe in the matter, according to Comey's account. Comey refused, and Trump fired him, too.

It's unclear why Trump would cite lying to the FBI as a reason for firing Flynn

Then-White House spokesman Sean Spicer said after Flynn's firing that it was the result of a "trust issue" and the White House counsel's office had determined there was not a legal issue.

"Whether or not he actually misled the vice president was the issue, and that was ultimately what led to the president asking for and accepting the resignation of Gen. Flynn," Spicer told reporters on Feb. 14. "That's it, pure and simple. It was a matter of trust."

Trump has been publicly dismissive of Comey and of special counsel Robert Mueller's continuing investigation, and was often generous in his appraisal of Flynn, except to say his adviser could not stay on the job after misleading his vice president.

At the time, Pence said Trump

was justified in firing Flynn because Flynn had lied to him. Neither Trump nor Pence indicated concern then that the FBI had not been told the true story.

Pence, who served as head of Trump's transition, has not publicly commented on Flynn's plea.

Trump turned to Twitter again later Saturday night, railing about why Flynn was prosecuted but his Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton, was not for her alleged misdeeds.

He tweeted: "So General Flynn lies to the FBI and his life is destroyed, while Crooked Hillary Clinton, on that now famous FBI holiday 'interrogation' with no swearing in and no recording, lies many times...and nothing happens to her? Rigged system, or just a double standard?"

He then added: "Many people in our Country are asking what the 'Justice' Department is going to do about the fact that totally Crooked Hillary, AFTER receiving a subpoena from the United States Congress, deleted and 'acid washed' 33,000 Emails? No justice!"

Clinton was voluntarily interviewed for more than three hours at FBI headquarters in July 2016. She was not in custody during her interview and so, in accordance with standard FBI and Justice Department protocol, her interview would not have been recorded. A Justice Department policy on recorded interrogations applies to individuals who have been arrested and are in custody.

It is nonetheless a crime to lie to the FBI about any material fact in an investigation. Comey has said Clinton did not lie to the FBI during her interview. **AP**

ISRAEL

Police question Israeli leader's ally on corruption charges

Aron Heller, Jerusalem

ISRAELI police yesterday questioned a close ally of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on corruption charges dating to his pre-parliament days as he was pushing for pro-Netanyahu legislation widely seen as stifling police investigations.

Coalition whip David Bitan was grilled in relation to accusations that he promoted the interests of criminals in return for debt relief while he was a municipal politician years ago.

Bitan is the driving force behind a legislation push seen as aiding the beleaguered Netanyahu, who faces multiple cor-

ruption accusations. Bitan's so-called "recommendations bill" would end the police's current practice of recommending to the state prosecution office whether to indict suspects upon completing their investigations.

It also aims to stem leaks from the investigations themselves, stating that no police recommendations be made public and penalizing those found leaking to the media.

Netanyahu's Likud party was set to bring the bill for a parliamentary vote today, but appears to be short on numbers and will likely delay it. Their hope is to move the bill forward quickly

so that it will also apply to investigations currently taking place regarding Netanyahu.

Netanyahu has been questioned in two cases and police say they suspect him of being involved in bribery, fraud and breach of trust. Police have already grilled him six times regarding gifts he received from Hollywood and business figures, and in another probe about secret talks with the publisher of a major Israeli newspaper in which Netanyahu allegedly requested positive coverage in exchange for reining in a free pro-Netanyahu daily. One of his closest former aides has become a state's witness against him.

Netanyahu has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing and calls the accusations a witch hunt orchestrated by a hostile media.

Another investigation has engulfed his close associates and dominated news in Israel. The probe relates to a possible conflict of interest involving a USD2 billion purchase of German submarines.

Netanyahu's personal attorney, who is also his cousin, represented the German firm involved and is suspected of trading his influence over the prime minister in return for a hefty cut of the deal. A former Cabinet minister and top former navy and securi-



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

ty officials have been questioned by police. Netanyahu has yet to be named a suspect in that probe.

Bitan's questioning comes a day after tens of thousands of Israelis poured into the streets of Tel Aviv Saturday night for an anti-corruption rally calling on Netanyahu to resign. It was one of the largest demonstrations yet against

Netanyahu's lengthy rule.

"I think the time has come to change the government. The government is corrupt. We're sick of the corrupt," said protester Avi Elmozlinu.

Organizers are hoping that the grassroots movement picks up steam and becomes a regular Saturday night ritual that eventually forces Netanyahu from power. **AP**

Mike Corder, The Hague

Dutch autopsy shows dead war criminal had cyanide in system

A former Croatian general who died after swallowing a liquid at a war crimes hearing in the Netherlands had cyanide in his system, Dutch prosecutors said after an autopsy was performed Friday.

Preliminary results from a toxicological test revealed "a concentration of potassium cyanide" in Slobodan Praljak's blood, the Hague Public Prosecutor's Office said in a statement.

The cyanide caused heart failure, which investigators "pointed out" as the 72-year-old Praljak's "suspected cause of death," according to the prosecutor's statement.

On Wednesday, Praljak drank from a small bottle that he said contained poison seconds after an appeals judge at the U.N.'s International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia confirmed his 20-year sentence for crimes during the 1992-95 Bosnian war. He was pronounced dead at a nearby hospital a little while later.

Meanwhile, the United Nations tribunal ordered an independent review of its "internal operations" following the dramatic event in its courtroom. The tribunal said its review was meant to complement the ongoing investigation of Pral-

jak's death by Dutch prosecutors.

The announcement came after Croatia's justice minister raised doubts about whether security and medical staff at the tribunal responded quickly enough when Praljak raised the bottle to his lips with a trembling right hand and consumed its contents.

Before the toxicological test results came back, Dutch prosecutors had confirmed the bottle carried a toxic chemical. It remains unclear how Praljak, who was in custody before the hearing, obtained the substance and managed to smuggle it into the courtroom.

Cyanide is a fast-acting chemical that can be deadly in different forms. Cyanide gas is considered the most harmful, but swallowing cyanide can also be lethal.

Potassium cyanide, found in Praljak's blood, is a white powder that can have a bitter, almond-like odor. Cyanide kills by preventing the cells of the body from using oxygen, and is particularly harmful to the heart and brain, according to the U.S. Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention.

The tribunal's review will begin next week and be led by Hassan Jallow, a former prosecutor with the U.N.'s Rwanda war crimes tribunal. It aims to file a report by Dec. 31, when the tribunal formally closes its doors, having completed all its cases.

The court says Jallow "is mandated to undertake an assessment of relevant existing procedures as well as make any recommendations which may assist other courts in the future."

Tribunal spokesman Nenad Golcevski said it is not the first time such a probe has been ordered by the court.

"Similar internal reviews have been initiated, for example, after the death of Slobodan Milosevic," Golcevski said, referring to the former Yugoslav president who died in his tribunal cell in 2006 before judges could deliver verdicts in his trial.

Two Croatian experts observed the autopsy on Praljak's body at the tribunal's request.



Slobodan Praljak brings a bottle to his lips seconds after judges reconfirmed his 20-year prison sentence for involvement in a campaign to drive Muslims out of a would-be Bosnian Croat ministate

Late Thursday, Croatian Justice Minister Drazen Bosnjakovic said the country would ask Dutch authorities to be included in the ongoing investigation into Praljak's death.

Bosnjakovic told Croatia's state TV that "much remains unclear, including how the poison was taken in, why security didn't react in time and why medical help arrived so late." He added that

Croatia wants "all facts cleared about this tragic event."

Praljak's defense lawyer, Nika Pinter, told Croatia's Nova TV she did not know how Praljak managed to get the bottle past security.

"But that was his decision, his decision," Pinter said. "He would not want to live for one day with handcuffs on his hands, and [the] stigma of war criminal on his back." AP

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what's ON



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ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2825 9220

FESTIVE VIBES AT ALBERGUE SCM

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays)
12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)
UNTIL: December 6, 2017
VENUE: Hall D1, Albergue SCM, No. 8, Calçada da Igreja de São Lázaro
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

A PROMENADE IN THE SMALL CITY: AN ILLUSTRATION EXHIBITION OF THE MACAU CULTURAL AND CREATIVE MAP

TIME: 11am-10pm
UNTIL: December 31, 2017
VENUE: Lakeside Gallery, Anim'Arte
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

TIME: 10am-5pm (Closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)
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ADMISSION: Free
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Offbeat



SPHINX FROM 90-YEAR-OLD MOVIE SET UNEARTHED

Archaeologists working in sand dunes on the central California coast have dug up an intact plaster sphinx that was part of an Egyptian movie set built more than 90 years ago for Cecil B. DeMille's epic "The Ten Commandments."

The 300-pound sphinx is the second recovered from the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes.

Dunes Center Executive Director Doug Jenzen tells Santa Barbara news station KEYT-TV that it's unlike other items found on previous digs because most of it is preserved with the original paint intact.

The set of the 1923 movie included more than 20 sphinxes. After filming, DeMille ordered everything buried in the dunes 175 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

They lay undisturbed for decades before recovery efforts began. The newly recovered sphinx is expected to go on display at the dunes museum next summer.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	RTPi Live
17:35	Zig Zag
18:10	Brazilian Mini Serie (Repeated)
18:40	Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Brazilian Mini Serie
22:40	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Magazine 2017/2018
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

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MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Kenneth Branagh

Starring: Penelope Cruz, Willem Dafoe, Judi Dench, Johnny Depp, Michelle Pfeiffer, Daisy Ridley and Josh Gad

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 114 min



WONDER

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Stephen Chbosky

Starring: Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson, Jacob Tremblay

Language: Chinese (English)

Duration: 113min



HAPPY DEATH DAY

ROOM 3

2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm

Director: Christopher Landon

Starring: Jessica Rothe, Israel Broussard, Ruby Modine, Charles Aitken

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 96min

this day in history



1976 'GENIUS' COMPOSER BENJAMIN BRITTEN DIES

Benjamin Britten, considered to be Britain's leading composer, has died aged 63.

He had been fighting ill health since a heart operation in 1973.

Mr Britten died at his home, in Aldeburgh, in Suffolk. His friend Peter Pears a renowned tenor for whom he created many roles, was with him when he died.

Lord Britten, who was made a life peer in the Queen's birthday honors list this year, was a favorite of both performers and the public.

Tributes have begun flooding in for the composer who was held in the same regard as Vaughan Williams and Elgar and was said to compose daily.

Donald Mitchell, his friend and biographer, said Mr Britten was "an authentic genius".

Commentators have described him as a "first-rate pianist" who endeared himself to many with his understated modesty.

He once said: "What matters to us now is that people want to use our music. For that, as I see it is our job. To be useful to the living."

Lord Britten is considered to be among the first British composers to have captured the imagination of audiences at home and abroad.

Among his most famous works are the operas Peter Grimes and Billy Budd and the Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra.

Lord Britten was aptly born on the feast of St Cecilia, the patroness of music, on 22 November, in Lowestoft, Suffolk.

In 1930, aged 16 and with many compositions already to his name, Lord Britten entered the Royal College of Music in London.

A convinced pacifist, he emigrated to North America during the war and was exempt from military service on his return in 1942. But he never stopped composing works for film, stage and opera.

By the time of his death he had achieved international fame as a composer, conductor and musician.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Lord Britten's life-long companion, Peter Pears, died in 1986. That same year, Lord Britten's estate was reconstructed and The Britten-Pears Foundation, a registered charity, was founded.

It promotes their musical works and writings and the principles of musical education and performance developed by them.

An annual Aldeburgh Festival is held each June, and an annual Britten Festival in the autumn.

And new musical work is encouraged through The Benjamin Britten International Competition for Composers.

A school in Lowestoft has been named after the town's most famous son, Lord Britten.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You've got to free your mind for the rest to follow.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Nice people usually just try to get everyone to like them.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Some close friends are tussling - and making your emotions their arena!

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 A seemingly innocuous encounter or unimportant feeling could end up tying you in knots.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Try making it up as you go along! Getting everyone to follow a strict plan just closes off options.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You might need a big crew to pull off this next scheme of yours.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You're quite sensitive and attuned to the needs of others.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Someone needs your help, but they're far too proud and delicate to come out and ask for it directly.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Your earning potential and your love life are both powered up - and it's almost too much activity for you to handle!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your financial worries should subside for a time when you get wind of a surprising new development.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your assertive instincts are telling you to make your move, but your equally powerful insecurity has you doubting what you hear.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 If you start to feel irritable, just take a deep breath (or two, or ten) and tell yourself it's all temporary.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. It lists forecasts for various cities in CHINA and the WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a 'Friday's solution' section with the completed grid and the words: RAIN, SARA, SABRE, TECTO, ATEM, PSEUD, VASTODONS, ALLEY, ARMAMENT, STEYS, PEERAGE, ANTE, ING, SLEEPON, GHAZI, SEGER, DOE, IATE, ATEAR, REED, GAI, SNARE, SEALS, STRIDER, SAC, ANIL, SENAYES, ISTLE, CASEMENT, URATE, CAMARILLA, TOILS, ATOM, LALL, ANDES, LOSE, NAIL.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

List of useful telephone numbers: Emergency calls 999, Fire department 28 572 222, PJ (Open line) 993, PJ (Picket) 28 557 775, PSP 28 573 333, Customs 28 559 944, S. J. Hospital 28 313 731, Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333, Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300, IACM 28 387 333, Tourism 28 333 000, Airport 59 888 88. Also includes Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283, Water Supply - Report 2822 0088, Telephone - Report 1000, Electricity - Report 28 339 922, Macau Daily Times 28 716 081. Includes a telephone icon.

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RUGBY

Macau Bats win 12 games in HK competition



SIX TEAMS from the Macau Bats Rugby Club set off for Hong Kong on November 26 for their latest round of competitive games. There, the teams exceeded expectations, winning 12 games, losing three and earning three draws across the six competitive categories.

The under-sevens team kicked proceedings off and performed well, according to the club, despite ending on the wrong end of a one-try defeat three times. The matches were very tight and the team finished with a high scoring 5-5 draw.

The under-eights lost a tough game 3-0 against a strong Centaurs team from Singapore. However, the team rebounded from the setback and went on to win their next three matches convincingly against Shatin She Pei, Hong Kong Football Club and USRC Tigers.

The under-nines followed up their impressive showing at the last Hong Kong festival with another strong display of rugby, securing convincing wins against Hong Kong Football Club, the Police team and hosts Sandy Bay, scoring 25 tries while conceding only one in the process. The team drew 4-4 against Aberdeen to return undefeated to Macau.

The under-10s managed to go one better and recorded four wins from their four games in 20 tries against the loss of one.

The under-12s played in the Bowl League and lost narrowly against Discovery Bay in their first game before recovering to draw against Sai Kung and winning games against Shatin and Valley Fort. This performance was enough to see the Macau Bats win the Bowl League and gain a promotion to the next round of games later this month.

The final game of the day saw the combined team of the Macau Bats, Kukris and Pirates under-16s take on Sandy Bay. A disappointing first half saw the Hong Kong team build a commanding lead, and although the Bats performed better in the second half, the gap was too great to close.

Despite the defeat, the combined Bats team still remain well placed in their league and eagerly await the league restart in January.





Sam Bird speeds through the Central Harbourfront circuit



Rosenqvist facing oncoming traffic in Hong Kong

Bird, Rosenqvist win Hong Kong Formula E races

THE FIA Formula E Championship started on Saturday with a gripping opening contest in Hong Kong. In the first of two races held during the weekend, Sam Bird sealed a surprise victory despite picking up a penalty for not stopping in his allocated space during the mid-race car swap.

Bird entered the pitlane eager to retain the advantage he'd built over Jean-Eric Vergne, but attacked his marks too aggressively on the dusty surface and skated to a halt outside the front of his garage.

He managed to jump out and into his second car without losing too much time. However,

Bird didn't make his mandatory car change in the box allocated to the driver - picking up a drive-through penalty in the process. But it wasn't enough to stop him.

There were several contenders in a hotly-contested battle as Bird faced his former teammate Vergne for the majority

of the opening stint. Vergne led the way from Julius Baer pole position, fending off the fast-starting Mahindra of Nick Heidfeld.

On yesterday's race, Macau GP double winner Felix Rosenqvist was elevated to first place in Hong Kong and earned his second victory in the Formula E

Championship, after Daniel Abt was disqualified for a technical infringement.

The Audi Sport ABT Schaeffler driver was denied his first-ever win in Formula E on his 25th birthday following a post-race penalty, which found that the FIA security stickers (barcodes) on the inverter and MGU units didn't correspond with those declared on the technical passport provided by the competitor for the event.

The result remains provisional subject to an appeal to the FIA International Court of Appeal by Audi Sport ABT Schaeffler, against the stewards' decision to disqualify Abt from the race.

Abt pumped his fist as he crossed the finish-line, only to be stripped of victory hours later. The German chased debutant Edoardo Mortara for the majority of the race and inherited the lead with just two laps to go after the Venturi driver spun at Turn 2.

Street circuit specialist Mortara, who is nicknamed "Mr Macau" due to his exceptional results on the Guia Circuit, put on an impressive display in only his second-ever E-Prix, but made a mistake pushing too hard to obtain the extra point for the fastest Lap. He quickly recovered after pirouetting into the run-off area and re-joined to finish in a disappointing third - later promoted to second.

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opinion

Rear Window
Severo Portela



AUTHORITY REPORT

To make good use of the accurate Monday morning quarterback predictions we would say it was an easy guess to foresee that Wong Sio Chak's day in the Legislative Assembly would become the highlight of the sectorial policy presentations. This is not exactly because the areas and issues covered by the Security portfolio are in themselves a source of immediate controversy, both here and anywhere else, but because Secretary Wong proved himself to be prepared to go and play in order to stand his ground - to uphold the government guidelines - although one has to wonder at what point the policy brief ends and the Secretary for Security reading of the zeitgeist begins.

Anyway, just to figure out the weight of this portfolio, take Sulu Sou's alleged aggravated disobedience, surveillance cameras, cybersecurity law, security law, border control policy and so on. All directly relate to the rights, freedoms and guarantees in the MSAR. All in a way addressed directly by Wong regardless of the discomfort in challenging pro-democracy legislators on their turf of ideas first among all the freedoms of speech.

Sulu Sou and Ng Kuok Cheong confronted the Secretary for Security with alleged episodes of noise on the Internet, and with the prosecution of two senior citizens on the grounds of, we believe, sharing messages about Typhoon Hato which were deemed rumors. The "cyber security law did not go through a public consultation; nobody has seen the contents of the bill", pointed out Sulu Sou. Wong reformulated the question to the technical level of telecoms, and had no problem to assume that freedom of speech is not absolute (to finish with the recurrent mantra of according with the law, according with the law). "All speech needs to be controlled within the law...it is not absolutely free, including speech online. We are supervising according with...", you know. There seems to be no reason for solid optimism chez Macau's pro-democracy clubs!

Beyond worries regarding the generic freedom of speech, Ng managed to indirectly question the Secretary for Security about the ordeal of fellow democrat Sulu Sou, who's soon to be prosecuted. Referring to "democratic movements", the veteran lawmaker asked timidly if Macau is abusing its power by prosecuting mostly peaceful demonstrators. Indeed, Sulu Sou who was accused of walking on the road instead of the sidewalk without permission is one such case. The Legislative Assembly will vote today to suspend - or otherwise - the legislator in order to facilitate him standing trial now or at a later date for aggravated disobedience.

Wong Sio Chak countered the arguments by the mantra "the police are enforcing the law according with its rules" and with an argument of numbers, or bilan, in which there were 58 individuals prosecuted who had taken part in two demonstrations for a total of 147 demonstrations and, 1882 meetings. It gives one shudders.

Spooky: if there is no cooling-off factor under consideration, we have, borrowing from Zizek trilemma, to fear the incompatibility of certain virtues in an utterly constraining ideological environment. Put the CCTV surveillance cameras system that Wong Sio Chak guarantees will not compromise democratic movements together with its rationale, and we have the stuff of nightmares; perhaps unjustified considering what Wong says preemptively.

P.S.: A final note related to the virtues of camera surveillance system that allows police to save precious time on investigation...from days to seconds. This is fact; fiction based upon it is something like Philip K Dick's short-story "Minority Report" of which we have the synopsis: in a future where a special police unit is able to arrest murderers before they commit their crimes, an officer from that unit is himself accused of a future murder.

THE RUGBY: SOUTH AFRICA
BUZZ RETAIN DUBAI SEVENS TITLE

South Africa defended the Dubai Sevens rugby title by beating New Zealand 24-12 in the final on Saturday. New Zealand undermined its cause in the first minute when Joe Ravouvou was sin-binned for a high tackle on Branco du Preez. South Africa exploited the extra man with successive tries by Philip Snyman, Seabelo Senatla, and Kwagga Smith to be 19-0.

Then Rosko Specman was sin-binned for a deliberate knock on, and New Zealand came back through tries by Andrew Knewstubb and Scott

Curry to cut the deficit to seven. But South Africa managed the time well, and Tim Agaba scored with a break from a lineout with seconds to go. The South Africans won Dubai for the third time in four seasons.

They beat Fiji 12-7 in the semifinals, and Samoa 26-10 in the quarterfinals.

New Zealand reached its first final in the world series since Hong Kong in April 2016, 13 tournaments ago, by knocking out Australia and England. The second leg in Cape Town is next weekend.

JAPAN

Emperor Akihito to abdicate on April 30, 2019

JAPAN'S much admired Emperor Akihito is set to abdicate on April 30, 2019, at age 85 in the first such departure from the Chrysanthemum Throne in about 200 years, the government said Friday.

Akihito's elder son Crown Prince Naruhito will ascend the throne a day later, beginning a new as yet unnamed era.

The decision was made Friday at a meeting of the Imperial House Council, which was chaired by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and included parliamentary leaders, supreme court judges and imperial family members.

Akihito expressed his apparent wish to abdicate in August 2016, citing his age and health.

Abe will provide the summary of the meeting at the next Cabinet session early next week ahead of the formal approval expected on Dec. 8, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters.

"I feel deeply moved that the decision was made smoothly by the Imperial House Council, marking a major step toward an imperial succession," Abe said.

Suga said the timing was chosen so that Akihito can abdicate after reaching his 30th anniversary on the throne, a



Emperor Akihito

milestone. Late April is also more appropriate for many Japanese to embrace the change of an era after settling down from a busy period of travel and job transfers around April 1, the beginning of a new fiscal year.

Legislation allowing Akihito to abdicate within three years was enacted earlier this year. There will be more preparations to come, including deciding a new era name and a new home for the emperor and the empress, Suga said.

"We would like everyone to celebrate an abdication of the emperor and succession of the crown prince," he said.

Akihito's desire to leave the throne revived a debate about the country's 2,000-year-old monarchy, one of the world's oldest, as well as discussion

about improving the status of female members of the shrinking royal population. The current male-only succession rules prohibit women from succeeding to the Chrysanthemum Throne and female members lose their royal status when they marry a commoner.

Akihito was 56 years old when he ascended the throne in January 1989 after the death of his father, Emperor Hirohito, beginning the Heisei Era. Naruhito will be 59 when he becomes emperor.

Naruhito has no son, and only two other men - his younger brother Akishino and his son - are left as eligible successors.

On Friday, Naruhito's only child, Princess Aiko, turned 16 - the age women are allowed to marry under Japan's constitution. One of Akishino's two adult daughters is marrying a commoner next year, when the royal family would lose all three female members of the younger generation unless the law is revised. Conservative lawmakers oppose allowing female royals to succeed the throne or head the household.

The legislation for Akihito's case was needed because the 1947 Imperial House Law does not provide for abdication. The last emperor to abdicate was Kokaku in 1817. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Paulo Barbosa



The second edition of the Hong Kong E-Prix was held over the weekend. Once again, organizers set up a comfortable lounge area at Tamar Park. In addition to broadcasting the races live on big screens, the family-friendly area offered a range of interactive experiences, such as racing simulators. Booths from automakers involved in Formula E displayed new cars and innovations.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	40-60 Good	
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Good	
Ambient	40-60 Good	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



VATICAN Pope Francis says he recalls so many "suffering" but "noble" faces from his just-ended trip to Myanmar and Bangladesh. He greeted people in St. Peter's Square yesterday. Francis thanked God for the voyage's opportunity to meet residents in the two Asian countries, citing in particular the tiny Catholic communities there, adding he was "edified by their testimony."



PAKISTAN Islamist militants stormed a provincial government complex for agricultural research in northwest Pakistan on Friday, killing 12 people including students and wounding 35 others, police and rescue officials said.



UKRAINE Anti-corruption campaigner Mikheil Saakashvili is urging Ukrainians to set up a protest camp in Kiev's main square if parliament fails to adopt a law on presidential impeachment within a week.



IRAN President Hassan Rouhani inaugurated yesterday a newly built extension to the country's main Arabian Sea outlet, the strategic Chabahar Port on the Gulf of Oman, which more than triples its capacity and poses a challenge for a port under construction in neighboring Pakistan.

TANZANIAN police are holding one of two women accused of kissing in a video widely circulated on social media. Authorities arrested the woman in the northwestern region of Geita and are looking for the other woman and some others seen in the video.